



Well Baby Initiative Meeting

Susan Gadacz, Deputy Administrator
BHD/Community Access to Recovery Services (CARS)



Well Baby Initiative

- CARS data 58.6% increase between 2010 and 2014 in the percentage of women identifying "heroin" as the major problem they wanted to address in substance use disorder treatment.
- Opioid use is strongly correlated to Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).
- The Wisconsin Hospital Inpatient Data System shows a 58% increase between 2008 and 2012 in the rate of infants diagnosed with NAS.
- Reluctance to seek care.
- Coordinated community response.



Well Baby Initiative- WCHSA

Some consideration for complementary services may be the following:

1. Allow NAS to be an automatic qualifier for Birth to Three;
2. Embed screening brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) into the prenatal care coordination (PNCC) benefit as a standard of care;
3. Expand the PNCC educational component to the entire family (as defined by the pregnant woman);
4. Vermont's Charm Model;
5. Consider incorporation of pain management clinics into treatment centers;
6. Develop a Harm Reduction model of care;
7. Utilize parent peers to assist in engagement and follow-through; and,
8. Expand Family Drug Treatment Courts statewide.

A parent's heroin addiction, a newborn's death sentence

By [Crocker Stephenson](#) of the Journal Sentinel
Nov. 14, 2014

No bystander could be more innocent. No damage so helplessly collateral.

Trysten Jacob Powell, delivered by C-section at Wheaton Franciscan-St. Joseph hospital on March 28, 2013, lived three months.

Nearly half of his life was spent in St. Joe's neonatal intensive care unit, where he was weaned from an opiate dependency that, according to a medical examiner's report, he inherited from his mother, Jackie Bricco, who was then a 30-year-old heroin addict from Marathon County with a long and troubled history with child protective services.

The remainder of his life was spent sharing a small apartment with Bricco at St. Catherine Residence for women on Milwaukee's east side. It would be there, in the lobby of St. Catherine, that on July 7, shortly after 7 a.m., rescue workers called to the building would pronounce Trysten dead.

The medical examiner ruled that the cause of Trysten's death was [Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, Type II](#), a finding that raises nearly as many questions as answers.

SIDS means that Trysten died while sleeping and that his death, after a thorough investigation, could not be explained. The additional label "Type II" means that unsafe sleep conditions, such as co-sleeping, were present but could not be proved to have contributed to his death.

The medical examiner's report lists Jeremy Bradley as Trysten's father, though paternity tests had not been performed.

Bradley says he thinks he is Trysten's dad. But a couple of days after he attended Trysten's funeral, Bradley said, Bricco sent him a text message that insisted he was not.

Bradley doesn't know if the text was an act of kindness or cruelty. He says he has lost touch with Bricco. He doesn't know where she is, what she's doing or how to reach her.

What he is sure of is his belief that a baby, particularly one as medically delicate as Trysten, should never have been allowed to go home with Bricco.

"That's insane and ridiculous," he says.



Well Baby Initiative- Messages

- The importance of Factual information
 - Causal become murky
 - No method to untangle the maternal environmental factors
- Healthy Neonatal Environment
- Cannot Shame, Blame, or Legislate a woman into Sobriety
- We do not have all the answers
- Meet a woman where she and/or her child are at
- Community is where we will have the greatest impact



Well Baby Initiative- Objectives

- Better Understanding of Current and Proposed Initiatives
- Agree to Start with a Welcoming and Compassionate Approach
- Remain Cognizant Egregious Maternal Substance Use Does Occur
- Focus on Safety and Well-Being for Mother/Child/Family as a Unit
- Courageous Conversations Across our Continuum of Care